



California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

March 2006, Number 20

This newsletter is intended to inform you about recent actions and issues before the CPUC that may affect your community. If you need assistance or clarification on anything in this newsletter, please contact [Kyle DeVine](#) or the [Public Advisor](#). Below is information on how to subscribe or unsubscribe and you can also email us at: cpucnl@cpuc.ca.gov.



Update on the Telecommunications Bill of Rights! The CPUC has endorsed rules to empower telecommunications consumers and crack down on fraud by launching a multilingual consumer education initiative, stepping up enforcement activities, and expanding the CPUC's toll-free complaint hotline. For more information, [click here](#) (proceeding R00-02-004).

More Expos! The CPUC will have two, small business expos in March, in Bakersfield on March 9, and in West Sacramento on March 16. Commissioner Bohn is hosting the Expos statewide where buyers, contractors and program managers from AT&T, the California Water Association, PG&E, SDG&E, Edison and Verizon will be available to discuss their upcoming service and product needs. For more information, [click here](#).

Update! California Solar Initiative a workshop will be held on March 16 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at our offices at 505 Van Ness Ave, San Francisco to discuss performance-based incentive as a tool for compensating solar project operators. To learn more, [click here](#).

Update! The CPUC issued a decision stating its intent to cap the greenhouse gas emissions by utilities. The CPUC will continue to collaborate with Governor Schwarzenegger's Climate Action Team and joins in the work that began in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states. We hope that the efforts on both coasts will move the ball forward on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate global climate change in the United States and around the world. To read the decision [click here](#), (proceeding R.04-04-003).

New! Broadband over power lines - The CPUC has proposed a regulatory framework that provides regulatory certainty to California companies seeking to deploy broadband service over utility power lines, which can increase competition in the broadband market. The proposal is scheduled to be discussed at the Commission's March 15 meeting. To read the proposal, [click here](#) (proceeding R.05-09-006).

Update! Municipal Departing Load Cost Responsibility Surcharges. Cities who own their own electrical utilities and were not previously exempted from paying the surcharge, may want to read the Commission's new decision which establishes procedures for publicly-owned utilities to apply for exemption from the Municipal Departing Load Cost Responsibility Surcharges. To read the decision, [click here](#) (proceeding R.02-01-011).

Reminder! The CPUC is here for consumers in many ways. In addition to consumer education and improving consumer access to the CPUC, the CPUC resolves complaints and aggressively pursues companies that fraud consumers. For example, a decision on a complaint proceeding directs the **operators of Kimball Mobile Home Park and Circle S Corral Mobile Home Park to fully refund** the credits that renters are due from electric refunds. To read that decision, [click here](#). In another case, the CPUC investigated the **consumer abuses by Ronen Ratoviz, owner and president of Coastal Moving and Storage, Inc.**, and worked with the Los Angeles City Attorney to secure criminal convictions against Ratoviz. To read the press release, [click here](#)



New! San Diegans following SDG&E's Sunrise Power Link proposal, may be interested in knowing that the CPUC has set up a link to proceeding information on the CPUC home page at www.cpuc.ca.gov (proceeding A.05-12-014).

Update! San Clemente has been given authority to construct the Mariposa Pedestrian Underpass, under train tracks that run along the beach. This is a key addition to a system of trails the City is establishing along the beach. To read the decision, [click here](#).

New! Los Angeles area customers of California America Water Company - hearings, where the public may comment on the water company's request to increase rates 10%, have been scheduled and to read that ruling, [click here](#).

New! San Bernardino County will have 211 information and referral service. The Inland Empire United Way, has been given the authority to provide information and referral services through use of the three digit 211 phone number. For more information, [click here](#).

Northern



Update! PG&E shareholders will pay \$6 million to improve electric system reliability, as settlement to the CPUC investigation into the fire that caused a catastrophic power outage on December 20, 2003 at PG&E's Mission substation. To read the decision, [click here](#) (proceeding I.05-03-011).

New! A scoping memo has been issued for PG&E's request for a general rate increase. Issues to be covered include whether to adopt PG&E's request for a base revenue requirement of \$5 billion in 2007. For the ruling, [click here](#) (proceeding A.05-12-002). Also hearings where the public may comment on the request have been scheduled. To read that ruling, [click here](#).

New! PG&E has asked to offer an optional climate protection program which allows those who enroll in it to help fund environmental projects designed to remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere. A prehearing conference for the proceeding is scheduled for March 16. To read the ruling, [click here](#).

New! Residents near Royal Oaks Drive and Oxford Street in Sacramento will get some relief from the railroad bells that ring continuously when a train is at, or approaching, those crossings. The bells will only ring on the south side of the crossing during the beginning and while the gates are lowering. To read the resolution, [click here](#).

New! SBC, now AT&T, will be serving customers in its Jacumba exchange from its Campo exchange. This enables the company to serve customers better in an area where facilities are scarce. The customers that asked to keep their phone numbers will be able to. To read the resolution, [click here](#).

Upcoming Commission Meetings: March 15, April 13 and April 27. The agenda for the March 15 meeting is available on our website. To view it, [click here](#).

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